

# THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS 17 MAY 1910

THE PENSION BUILDING  
441 F STREET, N.W., SUITE 312  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20001

202-504-2200  
202-504-2195 FAX

## MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

29 October 1992

AM 10:00 CONVENE, 441 F Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001

### I. ADMINISTRATION

#### A. Approval of minutes:

24 September 1992

#### B. Dates of next meetings:

3 December 1992

21 January 1993

#### C. Department of Energy: Official seal.

### II. SUBMISSIONS AND REVIEWS

#### A. Department of the Treasury, U.S. Mint

CFA 29/Oct/92-1, James Madison-Bicentennial of the Bill of Rights Commemorative Coins. Designs.

#### B. Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority

CFA 29/Oct/92-2, Replacement facility for Fire Engine Company No. 24 to be located at Georgia Avenue and Gallatin Street, N.W. (Previous: 24/Sept/92-2.)

#### C. District of Columbia Government, Department of Public Works

CFA 29/Oct/92-3, Replacement of the Francis Swimming Pool and Bathhouse, 25th and N Streets, N.W.



II. SUBMISSIONS AND REVIEWS continued, 29 October 1992

D. District of Columbia Department of  
Consumer and Regulatory Affairs

1. Old Georgetown Act

- a. O.G. 92-109, Cogeneration Plant, Georgetown University campus. Revisions to approved concept plan. (Previous: O.G. 91-53.)
- b. Appendix I.

2. Shipstead-Luce Act

- a. S.L. 93-04, 1709 New York Avenue, N.W. Renovation of entrance area and landscaping. Permit.
- b. S.L. 92-103, 600 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W., Watergate. Alterations to entrance and driveway. Conceptual. (WITHDRAWN)
- c. S.L. 93-02, 1940 Shepherd Street, N.W., The Rocks. Pedestrian bridge. Revision to permit # B353456.
- d. Appendix II.

E. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,  
Military District of Washington

- 1. CFA 29/Oct/92-4, Ft. Myer Officers' Club. Addition and entrance renovation.
- 2. CFA 29/Oct/92-5, Ft. Myer NCO Club. Addition and new entrance.

F. Central Intelligence Agency

CFA 29/Oct/92-6, 1724 F Street, N.W.  
Renovation and new entrance canopy.



## OLD GEORGETOWN SUBMISSIONS

| <u>NO.</u>                 | <u>ADDRESS AND OWNER</u>                                              | <u>PROJECT</u>                                |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| O.G. 92-148<br>HPA. 92-586 | 3800 Reservoir Rd, N.W.<br>Georgetown University<br>Research Building | Excavation<br>for new<br>building<br>- permit |

ACTION: See previous Action (O.G. 91-76).

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|                         |                                                                         |                          |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| O.G. 93-5<br>HPA. 93-17 | 3800 Reservoir Road, N.W.<br>Georgetown University<br>Research Building | New building<br>- permit |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|

ACTION: No objection to issuance of permit for proposed research building which conforms to approved concept design and recommendations issued by the Commission 21 November 1991 (O.G. 91-76). Request appropriate landscape design and maintenance schedule for this project in particular and the University in general prior to or in conjunction with any future proposals for the campus.

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|----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| O.G. 92-126<br>HPA. 92-494 | 3030 Dent Place, N.W.<br>Carlos Gabel<br>Residence | Rear addition<br>and front door<br>surround -<br>revised design<br>- permit |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|

ACTION: No objection to issuance of permit for proposed addition and alterations as shown in supplemental drawings received and dated 27 October 1992.

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|                            |                                                         |                                                              |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| O.G. 92-135<br>HPA. 92-502 | 3278 M Street, N.W.<br>Germar Properties<br>Street Life | Alterations to<br>storefront -<br>revised design<br>- permit |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|

ACTION: No objection to issuance of permit for proposed alterations as shown in supplemental drawings received and dated 23 September 1992.

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| <u>NO.</u>  | <u>ADDRESS AND OWNER</u>    | <u>PROJECT</u>  |
|-------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| O.G. 92-141 | 1073 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W. | Alterations and |
| HPA. 92-534 | Blues Alley Annex           | second story    |
|             | Restaurant/office building  | rear addition   |
|             |                             | - permit        |

ACTION: No objection to issuance of permit for proposed alterations and rear addition which together will have limited visibility from public space.

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|             |                     |                |
|-------------|---------------------|----------------|
| O.G. 92-146 | 3130 M Street, N.W. | Alterations to |
| HPA. 92-580 | Germar Radio & T.V. | storefront and |
|             | Office building     | rear facade    |
|             |                     | - conceptual   |

ACTION: No objection to concept design for alterations as shown in supplemental drawings received and dated 15 October 1992. Recommend refinement of details and proportions of new openings with submission of working drawings.

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|             |                           |              |
|-------------|---------------------------|--------------|
| O.G. 92-143 | 1500 35th Street, N.W.    | Enclosure of |
| HPA. 92-565 | Sisters of the Visitation | sun porch    |
|             | of Georgetown             | - permit     |

ACTION: No objection to issuance of permit for proposed enclosure of existing section of porch gallery with double-hung windows having true lights. Recommend similar division of new glass transom panels.

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|             |                             |              |
|-------------|-----------------------------|--------------|
| O.G. 92-144 | 1301 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W. | Signs-permit |
| HPA. 92-571 | Joan Gentz                  |              |
|             | Stoupsy's of Athens         |              |

ACTION: No objection to issuance of permit for proposed signs.

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|             |                               |               |
|-------------|-------------------------------|---------------|
| O.G. 92-138 | 1720 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W.   | Sign - permit |
| HPA. 92-507 | Metro Plating & Polishing Co. |               |

ACTION: No objection to issuance of permit for proposed sign (without telephone number).





| <u>NO.</u>  | <u>ADDRESS AND OWNER</u> | <u>PROJECT</u> |
|-------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| O.G. 92-145 | 1608 32nd Street, N.W.   | Iron gates -   |
| HPA. 92-574 | Brian D. Weaver          | revised design |
|             | Residence                | - permit       |

ACTION: No objection to issuance of permit for proposed iron gates, with iron posts instead of brick piers as shown in supplemental drawings & prints received and dated 19 October 1992. Gates to be built to match existing gate at 1616 32nd Street.

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|             |                         |                |
|-------------|-------------------------|----------------|
| O.G. 92-132 | 3326 Volta Place, N.W.  | Rear addition- |
| HPA. 92-499 | Volta Place Partnership | revised design |
|             | Residence               | - permit       |

ACTION: No objection to issuance of permit for proposed addition and alterations as shown in supplemental drawings received and dated 28 October 1992.

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**SHIPSTEAD-LUCE SUBMISSIONS**

| <u>NO.</u> | <u>ADDRESS AND OWNER</u>                                              | <u>PROJECT</u>                                         |
|------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| S.L. 93-1  | 1735 New York Avenue, N.W.<br>The American Institute<br>of Architects | Addition and<br>alterations to<br>entrance -<br>permit |

ACTION: No objection to issuance of permit for proposed extension of library, new handicapped access ramp and revised entrance doorway. Working drawings conform to previously approved concept submission. See previous Action (S.L. 92-50).

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|           |                                                                                      |                              |
|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| S.L. 93-3 | 1250 Maryland Avenue, S.W.<br>Parcel 49B Limited Partnership<br>The Portals, Phase I | Parking<br>signs -<br>permit |
|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|

ACTION: No objection to issuance of permit for proposed signs for parking at new office building.

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## COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS PRE-MEETING TOUR

29 October 1992

CONVENE: 8:00 AM, Pension Building, Suite 312,  
441 F Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001

1. Georgetown University, Prospect Street, N.W.  
Cogeneration Plant, Georgetown University campus.
2. Francis Swimming Pool and Bathhouse, 25th and N  
Streets, N.W.

### Members Present:

The Hon. J. Carter Brown, Chairman  
The Hon. Neil H. Porterfield, Vice Chairman  
The Hon. Joan Abrahamson  
The Hon. Adele Chatfield-Taylor  
The Hon. Jeannine Smith Clark  
The Hon. Robert Peck

### Staff Present:

Donald B. Myer, Asst. Secretary  
Jose Martinez



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## MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

29 October 1992

The meeting was convened at 10:00 a.m. in the Commission of Fine Arts offices at the Pension Building, 441 F Street, N.W., Washington, D. C., after a tour of project sites.

Members present:      Hon. J. Carter Brown, Chairman  
                            Hon. Neil H. Porterfield, Vice-Chairman  
                            Hon. Joan Abrahamson  
                            Hon. Adele Chatfield-Taylor  
                            Hon. Jeannine Smith Clark  
                            Hon. Robert A. Peck

Staff present:          Mr. Charles H. Atherton, Secretary  
                            Mr. Donald B. Myer, Assistant Secretary  
                            Mr. Jeffrey R. Carson  
                            Mrs. Sue A. Kohler  
                            Mr. Jose Martinez-Canino

National Capital  
Planning Commission  
staff present:          Mr. Patrick Tribe

### I. ADMINISTRATION

A. Approval of minutes: 24 September 1992. The minutes were approved without objection.

B. Dates of next meetings. The dates of the next meetings were approved as:  
    3 December 1992  
    21 January 1992

C. Department of Energy: Official seal. Secretary Atherton reported that a representative of the Department of Energy had called and requested the Commission's advice on a sculptor who could do a large-scale rendition of the department's seal on the wall or floor of the main building. In the course of the conversation the Secretary had remarked that the Commission had disapproved the design in 1977, and





the caller agreed that it left something to be desired. Mr. Atherton showed a color rendering of the seal, crowded with many elements representing the various forms of energy. He said he just wanted to report the conversation and say that there would probably be a submission of a new design in the near future. The members were pleased that the department was willing to reconsider the design. Exhibit A, A-1

Mr. Peck asked the Secretary if he could inquire as to what had happened with the controversy over NASA's seal--the attempt to get rid of the "worm" design so strongly associated with the space program and go back to an earlier design. Mr. Atherton said he was not sure what the outcome had been, but he would happy to look into it. Exhibit B

## II. SUBMISSIONS AND REVIEWS

### A. Department of the Treasury, United States Mint

CFA 29/OCT/92-1, James Madison/Bicentennial of the Bill of Rights Commemorative Coins. Designs. Staff member Sue Kohler said the legislation provided for three coins: a five-dollar gold coin, and one-dollar and half-dollar silver coins. The five-dollar coin was to be emblematic of the Bill of Rights; the obverse of the one-dollar coin was to depict James Madison and the reverse his home, Montpelier; the half-dollar coin was again to be emblematic of the Bill of Rights. The legislation also provided that the surcharges from the sale of the coins were to go to the James Madison Memorial Fellowship Foundation, to encourage the study of the Constitution in secondary schools by providing fellowships for teachers and recent college graduates in that field. She recalled that there had been an open competition for the designs, and that the Secretary had served on the design review panel, at the direction of the Chairman. She noted the presence of several representatives from the Mint, including William Daddio, the director of the competition; Mr. Daddio said he would be happy to answer any questions.

Mrs. Kohler then showed designs for each coin. The review panel's first choices for obverse and reverse were shown first, and their recommendations for adjustments to these designs were read. Then alternate designs, also considered acceptable by the panel, were shown. Mrs. Kohler said the preferred choices had received tentative approval from the Secretary of the Treasury and the James Madison Memorial Fellowship Foundation.

The members agreed with the panel's choices for the five-dollar and one-dollar coins, and generally with their recommendations for adjustments to the designs. The reverse



of the five-dollar coin had already been revised, but the members asked for further changes to the scroll. Some concern was expressed with the rendering of Montpelier on the reverse of the one-dollar coin, which was not architecturally accurate, and in several instances the lettering style, or the compatibility of different styles on the same coin, was questioned.

The Commission did not agree with the panel's choices for either the obverse or the reverse of the half-dollar coin. The obverse was considered a poor design generally; the reverse, which seemed to connote the monarchy giving rights to the common man, was thought to be inappropriate. Instead, they recommended that alternate No. 537 be used for the obverse, with several modifications, and No. 416, an alternate for the five-dollar coin, be used for the reverse. Mr. Daddio said he would take the Commission's comments back to the Mint; the Chairman thanked him for coming and said the recommendations would be spelled out in detail in a letter.

Exhibit C

B. Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority

CFA 29/OCT/92-2, Replacement facility for Fire Engine Company No. 24 to be located at Georgia Avenue and Gallatin Street, N.W. (Previous: 24/SEP/92-2.) Staff member Jeffrey Carson reviewed the previous submission and the Commission's request that the 25-foot setback from the street, which occurred where the trucks exit the apparatus room, be eliminated so as not to cause a break in the streetscape at that point. He also recalled that some changes had been suggested in the design of the doors of the apparatus room. Mr. Carson said these requests for further study had been addressed. He read from a letter from Fire Chief Alfred explaining the technical and safety reasons for the setback and said the fire department's representatives would speak to the members. Mr. Carson then introduced John Dickson from WMATA. Mr. Dickson introduced architect Amy Weinstein to discuss the changes made to the doors.

Ms. Weinstein showed drawings of the revised door design. The doors were arched rather than straight at the top, with a keystone, and the cornice had been embellished. Vice-Chairman Porterfield had a question about the visual relationship of the arches to the columns, and the Chairman asked that the keystones not project so much above the arches so as not to seem to touch the banding above; Ms. Weinstein said these were minor adjustments that could easily be made. With these recommendations, the revisions were unanimously approved.

Turning to the Commission's previous request to eliminate the building setback on Georgia Avenue, the Chairman said that



when the comments were made, the members had not heard the fire department's rationale for requiring it. He noted the presence of fire chiefs Alfred and Calloway and asked them to comment.

Chief Alfred said the setback was absolutely necessary for safety reasons, and he asked Chief Calloway to explain them to the members. Chief Calloway observed first that the design of a fire station was a series of compromises based on the size and configuration of the lot available. He talked about the size of urban and suburban setbacks and said the average in the city was just under 30 feet. He said it was essential that the apparatus be able to clear the door before it was closed by automatic timers and at the same time not pull out onto the sidewalk and into the street without proper precautions. There was a discussion about the possibility of manual closing of the doors, but Chief Calloway said that in the urgency of trying to get to a fire as quickly as possible, the drivers needed all the help they could get in making a rapid and safe exit from the station. Ms. Chatfield-Taylor thought the solution was to keep the setback and make it look as though it were a deliberately planned, special space; she thought an unusual pavement pattern and perhaps benches and plantings would accomplish this.

The Chairman said the big question was: Why build this station and the kiss and ride at all? John Dickson, representing WMATA, asked to speak. He said that his agency was meeting all their requirements--environmental impact statement, soil test borings, etc. He said they had known how they wanted to build this station for ten years, and fully expected the fire station would be gone by this time. He said they had gone through the public hearing process and talked with the D. C. Historic Preservation Review Board and the Advisory Council for Historic Preservation; as a result of this process, they had revised their plans so that no houses would have to be demolished, in contrast to the 200 they expected initially. Mr. Dickson then discussed the bus facility and traffic changes that would occur during the construction phase.

The Chairman and Mr. Peck questioned the need for such a large bus facility, and whether it had to be the drive-through type seen in the suburbs. Mr. Peck asked why the riders could not change to the subway farther out on the line; he thought it regrettable that a neighborhood had to be destroyed to bring people to mass transit. The Chairman objected to the idea of destroying the old firehouse just for convenience during construction; he thought there must be a way to solve these two problems satisfactorily--the problem of convenience during the construction phase, and that of the appearance of the neighborhood once construction had ended.





There was further discussion with Mr. Dickson, and the Chairman concluded that the Commission needed to see some elevation drawings. Ms. Chatfield-Taylor thought the whole concept needed to be reexamined. Vice-Chairman Porterfield agreed, pointing out a proposed park in a location that he thought would guarantee that it would never be used. He said the plans seemed to be removing buildings where they were needed and providing open space where it was not needed.

The Chairman brought the discussion to a close by saying that the Commission approved the fire station setback and the redesigned doors, but could not approve the scarring of the city that the proposed plan would produce. The Vice-Chairman said the members needed to see more visuals and more evidence for the conclusions WMATA had drawn, and Ms. Abrahamson thought the Commission should have a tour of the site before the next submission.

Two people in the audience asked to comment. Dorothy Brizill, who had testified at the previous meeting, said her citizens group had never heard of some of the plans Mr. Dickson had outlined. She repeated her earlier statement that the District government was still not sure it wanted a bus facility at this location. She pointed out that it was a major intersection and said Metro was imposing a "cookie-cutter" suburban solution on an urban location. She then commented on the environmental impact statement, saying that it gave four options that would save the old fire station.

Sally Berk, who had also testified before, showed slides of city locations where the entrance to a Metro station had been placed underneath an existing building; these included Metro Center, Dupont Circle and the Farragut North and West stations. She also commented on the bus facility hidden in a new building at the Van Ness station. Lastly, she said she had read the memorandum of agreement between WMATA and the D. C. Historic Preservation Review Board and the Advisory Council, and it did not agree to the demolition of the fire station and the Santmyer building.

There was no further discussion; Mr. Peck said that WMATA should look closely at its own alternatives before coming back to the Commission. The plans for the bus facility and the fire station demolition were not approved. Exhibit D

C. District of Columbia Government,  
Department of Public Works

CFA 29/OCT/92-3, Replacement of the Francis Swimming Pool and Bathhouse, 25th and N streets, N.W. Staff member Jose Martinez first noted that the members had visited the





site on their pre-meeting tour, and then introduced Tchako Ngandjui from the Department of Public Works, who turned the presentation over to architect John Sulton, from Sulton Campbell Britt Owens & Associates.

Mr. Sulton noted that the facility had been constructed in 1927, and he said both the concrete pool and the bathhouse were in a deteriorated condition. He added that the pool equipment was out-of-date and did not meet current health, safety, environmental, and disability requirements. The Chairman told Mr. Sulton that the Commission had seen the site and agreed that a replacement facility was necessary, but would like to see his proposals.

Dick Hines from Mr. Sulton's office showed plan and elevation drawings of the new facility. One long building would house the pump room, changing rooms, offices and a community room; it was designed in a stepped-back configuration facing the pool to cut down on the appearance of length. It was a one-story, gable-roofed structure, with an observation tower housing the lifeguard station. The building would be constructed of light-colored brick with darker bands, a reversal of the color scheme seen in the nearby office buildings designed by Skidmore, Owings & Merrill. The pool was sited diagonally to the building, following roughly the lot line along Rock Creek Park.

David Murphy from the Park Service asked to comment. He said that although the Park Service supported the proposal, they did have plans to build an upper trail along the edge of the park in that area, following the recommendations of the 1902 McMillan Plan. He thought there was enough room for both the trail and the pool if some shifting of land could be accomplished. Mr. Sulton said he had just learned of the Park Service's plans and would be happy to work with them; he noted that there was a sewer line running through the property that would have to be taken into consideration. He added that timing was important because they wanted the pool to be ready to open next summer.

The Chairman said the Commission's primary responsibility was to protect the park. He said he had no objection to the design of the new facility but would like to see an accommodation made with the Park Service so that the long-envisioned upper trail could become a reality. Ms. Chatfield-Taylor had a question about the siting of the building in relationship to the pool; she also asked why the two brick colors were used in the opposite way they were on the SOM buildings. Mr. Hines said the thought was that there should be some relationship, but the building should not appear to be part of the other project. The Chairman commented that the Commission would want to see a partial wall mock-up before



giving final material approval. Ms. Chatfield-Taylor also thought there should be more penetration into the long street facade, that it seemed dehumanized. Mr. Peck agreed, saying that the lack of windows gave it an industrial appearance. The Chairman suggested niches or some other form of articulation; he also thought the brick pattern could be used to bring about some relief. Mrs. Clark asked if the facility would be open only during the summer; Mr. Hines said the community room would be open the year around. The concept design was then approved unanimously with the comments and recommendations previously made. Exhibit E

D. District of Columbia Government, Department of  
Consumer and Regulatory Affairs

1. Old Georgetown Act

a. O.G. 92-109, Cogeneration Plant, Georgetown University campus. Revisions to approved concept plan. (Previous: O.G. 91-53.) Assistant Secretary Myer recalled the Commission's previous concept approval of an addition to the existing power plant, particularly the questions concerning the design of the stack and its visibility from public space. He said that subsequently there had been a design for another element--a "switchyard" between the plant and the observatory--which the Georgetown Board had reviewed, recommending some changes to reduce its impact on Glover-Archbold Park. Mr. Myer said the board was now asking the Commission to consider the design of the switchyard and the landscaping of the project. He said that at the time of the board's October meeting, the Zoning Commission had not released the permit documents, so this would still be considered a concept review. He noted that the members had toured the site before the meeting and met with Michelle Honey, the university's representative. He read the board's report, which stressed the question of the switchyard's visibility from the park, and the role of landscaping in minimizing it. The report also recommended adding trees to existing parking lots in the area to screen further the cogeneration plant itself from the southwest; the recommendation was made that this landscaping be made part of the overall master plan for the campus. Mr. Myer said the board had also recommended permit approval of a research building on the campus (which the Commission had approved conceptually in November 1991), and he noted that the members had seen the site on their tour.

Mr. Myer then introduced Michelle Honey, who turned the presentation over to Bernie Wulff from RTKL, architects. He reviewed the general design of the plant and showed material samples--metal for the screen wall, precast concrete and brick for the building. He said the switchyard would be an



enclosure for equipment kept out in the open, pointing out that it would be built on a steep slope downhill from the power plant; he noted that the ground then sloped upward to the observatory. He said the highest part of the retaining wall would be 20 feet, and there would be screening, in the form of trees, on the park side; he added that the yard could not be seen from the park or from the other side of the campus. Vice-Chairman Porterfield suggested that if the rear retaining wall were raised to the height of the slope, the existing trees could be kept and visibility would not be a problem; this would also be a less expensive solution. Mr. Wulff thanked the Vice-Chairman for this suggestion and then showed other landscaping drawings. He noted that the east side of the cogeneration plant would be open to views from the campus, and he said there would be landscaping to screen it. Mr. Peck asked about landscaping the parking lot in the area, which he considered a real eyesore. Ms. Honey acknowledged that something had to be done about it; she said it was being studied and would be brought back to the Commission.

Westy McDermid, representing the ANC, asked to comment. She said it would not be long before Georgetown University was the largest developer in Washington, and she observed that it existed within the residential area of a historic district and adjacent to Rock Creek Park. She said the ANC's in the area were all opposed to the cogeneration plant because it would not provide power for the area, but would be instead a Virginia power utility in the midst of a residential, historic area. She said the Georgetown Board had not recommended approval, and she noted that the switchyard had not been part of the Commission's approval in 1991. She urged the members not to approve the submission, and she reminded them that the Commission was the one agency whose function was to protect the community.

The Chairman said the Commission's mandate had to do with design, and it had reviewed the project on that basis, not on use. Noting that the addition to the power plant had already been given conceptual approval, he said the members had seen the site proposed for the switchyard and found that it would not be visible from either the historic community or the park. On that basis, he did not see any way the Commission could disapprove it. Ms. McDermid said she did not think concrete slabs and transformers were compatible with a historic district.

Ron Usher, the project manager for Virginia Energy, was then introduced. He showed drawings for the switchyard, pointing out the enclosing wall and the location of the transformers. Mr. Wulff said the enclosing wall would be metal, for security reasons and to provide a sound barrier against the hum of the transformers. In answer to questions





from the Vice-Chairman and Mr. Peck, Mr. Usher said the transformers would extend about one foot above the wall. Mr. Peck asked how often the area would have to be serviced by trucks; Mr. Usher said approximately once every six months. Ms. Abrahamson asked if the facility was meant to serve the university. Mr. Lesher said by far the greater amount of power produced would be used by the university; the rest would be sent out into the PEPCO grid. The Chairman then commented on Mr. Usher's statement that the transformers would be visible above the wall; he said he did not think anything should be visible and suggested lowering the floor to accomplish this.

Alicia Boyd, representing the Foundation for the Preservation of Historic Georgetown, said she would like to support Ms. McDermid. She agreed that the Georgetown Board had not recommended approval of the switchyard, but had just made its comments and sent them on to the Commission for consideration. She said that if the Commission could not address this problem, then it should be turned over to a body that could. Mr. Usher said the Zoning Commission should be acting on it in a few days.

The Chairman thought it was time to bring the matter to a vote. Mr. Peck made a motion to approve the concept of the switchyard with the Vice-Chairman's comments on the retaining wall and the Chairman's advice on lowering the transformers. He said he thought the university's parking lot was a worse intrusion on the area than the cogeneration plant would be. Ms. Chatfield-Taylor, who had abstained from voting on the concept for the addition to the power plant, said she would again do so, although she recognized the Commission's jurisdictional problem. The Chairman observed that the project was on the extreme far edge of Georgetown, and not really in the area the Georgetown Act was designed to protect; he did not think it could be turned down if it were coming in under the Shipstead-Luce Act either. The Vice-Chairman said he did not like the idea of a cogeneration plant on the university campus, but he could not see any real impact on the park. Mrs. Clark asked about the environmental impact; Ms. McDermid answered that a gas line would have to run up 35th Street, oil would have to be piped in, and the plant would release carcinogens into the air.

Mr. Usher asked to respond to some of the questions raised. He said, first, that the plant would generate only one percent of PEPCO's capacity, and the electricity would not serve distant areas. He said environmental impact statements had been issued and were well within all standards, including health risks, and he noted that the plant would be much cleaner than the old coal-fired system. In regard to the gas line on 35th Street, he said that was not unusual. The oil





that would be piped in would come in through double-walled pipes and stored in double-walled tanks; it would be used only on an emergency basis, about three to five days a years. The actual number of truck deliveries would be reduced.

The Chairman asked if there was a second to Mr. Peck's motion; there was no response. Mr. Myer said that since this was not a submission for permit application, the Commission did not have to act. Ms. Chatfield-Taylor observed that the Commission was faced with a common dilemma: coping with a law that does not address problems, other than aesthetic, that come up in historic districts. Mr. Peck pointed out that there were agencies to address these problems--public service commissions, planning and zoning commissions, laws on air quality, etc. In an effort to bring the Commission to a determination on the matter, Mr. Peck offered to make a motion to disapprove the project, but there was no indication that this motion would be seconded either. The discussion ended with no action having been taken. Exhibit F

b. Appendix I. The appendix was approved without objection.

## 2. Shipstead-Luce Act

a. S.L. 93-04, 1709 New York Avenue, N.W. Renovation of entrance area and landscaping. Permit. Mr. Martinez pointed out the location of this building, in the White House area, and next to the AIA Headquarters Building. He introduced George Dove, from the Weihe Partnership, to discuss the renovation plans. Mr. Dove said the building had a new owner who wanted to make the center entrance more visible, install better paving and make some changes in the landscaping; he said it would be a low-budget project. Mr. Dove showed photographs, noting the wide setbacks from the street in the area and the attention paid to landscaping. In the case of this building, the lobby (about 16 feet below street level) was reached by one of two sets of shallow steps, placed on either side of the center. A Japanese maple tree planted between them had grown so that it completely obscured the entrance. Mr. Dove's plan was to replace the two stairs by a single one, in the center, upgrade the deteriorating concrete pavement with a better-grade paver, augment the landscaping along the street front, and add dark green granite planter walls, for seasonal plants, on either side of the new entrance stair. The handicapped ramp would also be reworked and improved in appearance. Mr. Peck expressed some concern about the dark granite planters, wondering if they would provide too much of a contrast to the light color of the building. Mr. Dove said the color would be the same as that used in the lobby, and he thought that in the daylight it would not appear too dark and would work well with the bronze



handrail. There were no further questions, and the renovations were unanimously approved. Exhibit F

b. S.L. 92-103, 600 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W., Watergate. Alterations to entrance and driveway. Conceptual. This project was withdrawn and will be submitted at a later date.

c. S.L. 93-02, 1940 Shepherd Street, N.W., The Rocks. Pedestrian bridge. Revision to Permit #B353456. Mr. Martinez said this was one of several bridges for the property that were approved last year; at this time approval was being sought for a more solid, stone bridge; the stone would match that used for the other bridges. The overall length and the number of supports had been reduced. There were no objections to the revision, and it was approved. Exhibit F

d. Appendix II. Mr. Peck recused himself from voting on the item involving alterations to the AIA Headquarters Building; there were no objections to this or the other item on the appendix from the other members, and the Appendix was approved.

E. U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Military District of Washington

1. CFA 29/OCT/92-4, Ft. Myer Officers' Club. Addition and entrance modification.

2. CFA 29/OCT92-5, Ft. Myer NCO Club. Addition and new entrance. Mr. Carson showed photographs of the Officers' Club, a historic 19th century red brick structure, noting that it had suffered several unfortunate additions, including an entrance. He showed drawings for the new addition and entrance, a two-story tower in a style sympathetic to the building.

Mr. Carson then showed photographs of the NCO Club, a 1960s structure. Drawings for the new one-story addition (for a dance floor and a new handicapped entrance) were done in the same style as the original; materials, too, would match. The members commended the representatives from the Army who were present on the sympathetic additions to both clubs, and the designs were then unanimously approved. Exhibit G

F. Central Intelligence Agency

CFA 29/OCT/92-6, 1724 F Street, N.W. Renovation and new entrance canopy. The Assistant described this building as a 1920s apartment building that had been used for offices for many years. He said the plans were to renovate it, bring it up to date mechanically, and bring it back more or less to



its original appearance on the exterior. He said there would be an addition to the penthouse that would not be visible from the street; the principal visible change would be the replacement of the existing canvas awning over the entrance with a more permanent brick and glass structure. The members had no objection to the renovations except the entrance canopy, and they thought that the old canvas one should be retained, since it was more in keeping with the style of the building. Exhibit H

The meeting was adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

Signed,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Charles H. Atherton".

Charles H. Atherton,  
Secretary



# THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

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202 504 2200  
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EXHIBIT A

23 November 1992

Dear Mr. Secretary:

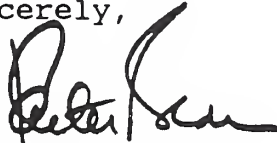
Recently we received an inquiry from DOE Staff on getting some technical help in casting a relief of the agency seal. After a bit of research, we were able to give them several leads; however, in the process of looking into our files on agency seals, we discovered that your current design was never looked upon with much favor, and we would like to suggest this may be a good time to review the matter before proceeding with the expense of casting the existing seal.

I am enclosing a copy of a letter we wrote to Secretary Schlesinger some fifteen years ago. Note our comments on the design. We took another look at the seal at our October meeting, and our members, all of whom are now different with the exception of myself, felt equally opposed to it, if not more so.

I hope that circumstances will warrant delaying the casting project until there is at least time to review the matter. It would be a shame to spend additional public funds on perpetuating a third-rate design, especially at this time.

The Secretary of the Commission, Charles H. Atherton, is very familiar with the situation and will be happy to help in any way he can and would welcome the opportunity to work with your staff.

Sincerely,



J. Carter Brown  
Chairman

The Honorable James D. Watkins; Secretary  
Department of Energy  
Forrestal Building  
1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20006





8 November, 1977

Dear Secretary Schlesinger:

Both your Department's Seal and that of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission were reviewed by the Commission of Fine Arts at its recent meetings.

When we were asked to look at the Department's seal on September 27, we understood it had already been officially adopted and that orders to place it on stationery and other uses had already been initiated. We regretted the circumstances, since we did not feel the design was satisfactory. In a broad sense, the heraldic character of the seal is out of step with the times, and the depictions of a variety of specific energy uses not only looks cluttered, but most likely will be ineffective at the small scale of the seal used on documents. We feel the same can be said of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission seal which was reviewed at our meeting on October 25.

Even if both these designs are now considered "official", I would hope they will not be considered permanent. They do not reflect well on the government and its continuing efforts to achieve better design.

While we are a review agency and do not initiate designs, we will be happy to discuss ways in which we think a better seal can be achieved. There is a great deal of available talent, so the problem should not be all that difficult.

Sincerely yours,

SIGNED

J. Carter Brown  
Chairman

Hon. James R. Schlesinger  
Secretary  
Department of Energy  
Washington, D.C. 20006

JCB/CHA:nn



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11 December 1992

EXHIBIT B

## MEMORANDUM:

TO: Robert Peck; Member

FROM: Charles Atherton; Secretary 

SUBJECT: Status of NASA's "Worm" logo

A call to NASA produced the name of Robert Shulman, formerly of the graphics office and currently in Public Affairs. He was around when the 60's logo was adopted and is in the middle of the current brouhaha. The head of NASA apparently made the decision to return to the "meatball" without a lot of consultation with anyone else in the agency.

According to Shulman, nothing much has been done to implement the directive to go back to the old design, primarily because the change was never funded. It's his view that because of the change in administration, this would be the wrong time for CFA to write an official letter because the incoming administration is more likely to be convinced it's not needed, and anyway, under NASA's current administrative setup, the letter would be bucked down to him for a reply and never reach the administrator.

He promised to keep us advised if there were a renewed interest in proceeding with the change. Until then, we should bide our time and hope for the best.



**NASA**National  
Aeronautics and  
Space  
Administration

*The space agency  
logo, left, and the  
1960s-style circular  
design scheduled to  
replace it.*



# Logo Change Sends NEA Into Orbit

## Federal Design Director Urges NASA Chief to Reassess Decision

By Kathy Sawyer  
Washington Post Staff Writer

When NASA's new chief, Daniel S. Goldin, decided to replace the space agency's logo last month, he meant to signal a cultural change.

He was not aiming to provoke an interagency flap by replacing a familiar logo, known as "The Worm"—the word "NASA" in minimalist, tubular type—with the 1960s-style circular design fondly known as "The Meatball."

But the National Endowment for the Arts thinks the meatball is a turkey.

Mina Wright Berryman, director of NEA's design arts program, lobbied a terse letter to Goldin:

"The worm is not simply a logo, but an integral part of NASA's comprehensive visual standards program. This program was developed by NASA in 1975 following an extensive review of the agency's graphics by a Federal Graphics Improvement Panel convened by the Design Arts Program. The panel of graphic designers found that NASA's graphics did 'not remotely relate to what NASA does' and had no visual unity; they recommended that NASA develop a graphic standards manual. A manual was developed in consultation with the design firm of Danne & Blackburn and through consistent application of its standards over the last 17 years, NASA has produced one of the most successful federal agency visual communications programs.

"In 1984, this program was awarded a Presidential Award for Design Excellence, the highest award in design given by the president. NASA is the only federal agency to date to have received this prestigious honor. . . . Before jeopardizing its entire visual communication program, we recommend that NASA undertake a professional evaluation of the program and of NASA's visual communication needs."

Berryman could not be reached for comment.

Goldin, reputed to be a crusader against bureaucratic tendencies, may not have suspected what he was up against.

In any case, he has been proudly wearing a small meatball in his lapel practically nonstop since coming to the decision, which he said he made at the urging of NASA employees around the country.

Much of the objection to the "worm" is said to be its connection with the shuttle era, which is associated with the 1986 Challenger tragedy and a lack of zest in the space program.

However, some NASA workers want to stick with the worm. "It's a generational thing," said one. "We young people like it."

The meatball features a sweeping "V," possibly meant to represent upward and outward velocity, and a circular sweep, possibly meant to represent an orbiting spacecraft, all tangled up in the phrase "National Aeronautics and Space Administration U.S.A." in old-fashioned type.

This "back to the future" switch, Goldin said, is not merely cosmetic but symbolizes a more substantive change in the way NASA operates, which he hopes will "rekindle the magic" of the can-do Apollo era while at the same time saving money and time.

In announcing the return of the meatball, which served as the NASA insignia from 1959 to 1975, he directed employees not to waste money by throwing out "worm"-infested stationery or repainting "worm"-covered space vehicles. (Converting one space shuttle from "worm" to "meatball" would cost some \$400,000, NASA officials said.) Instead, Goldin intends to phase in the meatball as new supplies are purchased.

There is one place where the "worm" is apparently forever. The government agency in charge of moving government agencies has directed NASA to move its headquarters to a new federal building. Goldin spokeswoman Sue M. Richard noted that, on its outside wall, a great worm already is "etched in stone."

*W. Post, 15 June 1992.*



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20 November 1992

EXHIBIT C

Dear Mr. Ryder:

At its meeting on 29 October the Commission reviewed designs for three coins commemorating James Madison and the Bill of Rights.

The comments of the members were as follows:

Five dollar gold coin. The obverse and reverse designs preferred by the design review panel were approved with these recommendations: Obverse: The Commission agreed with the panel that the figure of Madison needed additional study, particularly the arm, which was too large. Reverse: The revised design shown was considered an improvement, but again, the Commission agreed with the panel that the eagle should be moved down and the scroll depicted as rolled up. "Bill of Rights" could then be spelled out on or below the scroll, but not in the heavy block letters shown; a more classical lettering style was requested.

One dollar silver coin. The obverse and reverse designs chosen by the panel were approved with the following recommendations: Obverse: The members agreed with the panel that the head of Madison could be slightly, but not noticeably, smaller, and that some refinement of the face was desirable. They did not think the word "Liberty" needed to be made larger; if it were, it would crowd the portrait. The lettering style for "James Madison" should be in a style compatible with the other lettering on the coin. Reverse: The members agreed with the panel that the lettering could be somewhat smaller; this would perhaps allow the "of" in "United States of America" to be in upper case letters. Again, the lettering styles should be compatible. The members' most serious concern with the design was the rendering of Montpelier. It is important that it be architecturally and historically accurate, although the panel's recommendation that there be six steps shown was not considered vital, given their limited legibility when reduced to coin size.

Half-dollar silver coin. The Commission did not agree with the panel's choices in this case. Instead, the following designs were recommended:

Obverse: No. 537, an additional design for this coin,





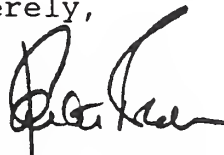


was the one preferred. It was expected that the figure of Madison would be more fully developed and refined, and the request was made that "Liberty" be replaced with "E Pluribus Unum" on this side of the coin, with no stars between the letters. Again, the depiction of Montpelier needs to be more nearly accurate; it was noted, for example, that this version showed no front steps at all.

Reverse: No. 416, an additional design for the five dollar coin, was preferred.

If there are any questions as the designs develop, the staff would be pleased to meet with your representatives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J. Carter Brown", written over the printed name.

J. Carter Brown  
Chairman

Honorable David J. Ryder, Director  
United States Mint  
633 Third Street, N.W.  
Washington, D. C. 20220



# THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

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20 November 1992

EXHIBIT D

Dear Mr. Mevorah:

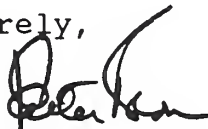
As you know, the Commission reviewed preliminary building plans for the new Fire Engine Company Number 24 on Georgia Avenue at Gallatin Street during both the 24 September and 29 October 1992 meetings. The members are pleased with the design approach and commend the architects for their thoughtful solutions. Efforts to articulate the apparatus doorways were successful, although additional refinements were discussed with the architect.

An objection to the setback of the fire engine apparatus wing from Georgia Avenue, raised during the first meeting, has been resolved. In this regard, the Commission believes that a distinctive paving pattern for the apron (rather than asphalt or a continuation of existing sidewalk materials) would help ameliorate the break in the building line of the block, and the addition of plant material on the wall along with seating would help make a virtue of a necessity.

Urban design questions at the new Metro station at New Hampshire and Georgia Avenues remain troubling to the Commission. We are planning a site visit so that we may better articulate our concerns. The imposition of a suburban-type "kiss-and-ride" facility misses an opportunity to reinforce the urban fabric of the community. WMATA should consult with the District of Columbia Planning Office to see if eventual air rights, or development potential could enhance long range community services at the intersection.

The Commission would be happy to review alternative solutions.

Sincerely,



J. Carter Brown  
Chairman

Mr. Emanuel Mevorah; Deputy Director for Architecture  
Office of Engineering and Architecture  
Washington Metro Area Transit Authority  
Washington, D.C. 20001



EXHIBIT F

AGENDA ITEM EXHIBITS

29 October 1992

| <u>NO.</u>                 | <u>ADDRESS AND OWNER</u>                                                    | <u>PROJECT</u>                                                 |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| O.G. 92-109<br>HPA. 92-414 | 3900 Reservoir Road, N.W.<br>Georgetown University<br>Central Utility Plant | Power plant<br>addition and<br>switchyard -<br>revised concept |

ACTION: No Action taken.

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|             |                                                                                               |                                                            |
|-------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| S.L. 92-103 | 600 New hampshire Avenue, N.W.<br>Hancock Realty Investors, Inc.<br>Watergate Office Building | Alterations to<br>entrance and<br>driveway -<br>conceptual |
|-------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|

ACTION: Project was withdrawn from agenda by applicant and postponed for future review.

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|           |                                                                   |                                                        |
|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| S.L. 93-2 | 1940 Shepherd Street, N.W.<br>John D. Rockefeller IV<br>The Rocks | Pedestrian bridge<br>- revision to<br>permit # B353456 |
|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|

ACTION: NO objection to revision to permit #B353456 for pedestrian bridge. See previous Action (S.L. 91-157).

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|           |                                                                           |                                                                |
|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| S.L. 93-4 | 1709 New York Avenue, N.W.<br>1709 Limited Partnership<br>Office building | Alterations to<br>entrance area<br>and landscaping<br>- permit |
|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|

ACTION: No objection to issuance of permit for proposed alterations to entrance steps, handicapped access ramp and planters with new landscaping.

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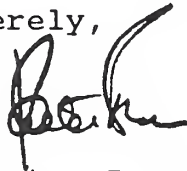
20 November 1992

EXHIBIT G

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

During its meeting of 29 October 1992, the Commission reviewed and approved designs for two projects at Fort Myer; an entrance tower addition to the historic Officers Club, and a one-story lounge and a new entrance addition to the Non-Commissioned Officers Club. The members were pleased by the different approaches to each project and commend the architects for the care they showed in adding to the existing buildings. The staff is available should you have any questions.

Sincerely,



J. Carter Brown  
Chairman

Mr. Richard C. Armstrong, P.E.  
Chief, Engineering Division  
Directorate of Military Programs  
Department of the Army, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Washington, D.C. 20314-1000





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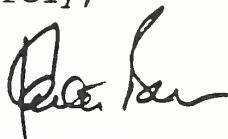
20 November 1992

EXHIBIT H

Dear Mr. Montefusco:

The Commission has reviewed plans for the proposed renovation of 1724 F Street, N.W., an early 20th-century structure one block west of the White House precinct. With the exception of the glass canopy, the members find the project commendable. The consensus is that a glass canopy on brick piers would be inappropriate to a building of this period, originally built as an apartment house. A more suitable approach would be to reuse the existing awning.

Sincerely,



J. Carter Brown  
Chairman

Mr. Harry A. Montefusco, Chief  
Facilities Management Group, OL  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington, D.C. 20505

